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HOUSE RESOLUTION 240  
By Brown

A RESOLUTION to commend Mr. Dwight Lewis for his honorable  
and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to  
specially recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have dedicated their professional  
careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dwight Lewis is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and  
probity in all his chosen endeavors, and who served as a most honorable speaker at "A Day on  
the Hill with Representative Tommie F. Brown" on March 21, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis serves with acumen as a columnist and regional editor for The  
Tennessean newspaper and is a Member of the Tennessean Editorial Board; and

WHEREAS, he recently spoke to an eager young audience of more than 250  
Chattanooga-Hamilton County students at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Day on the Hill, upholding the theme  
"Destiny is a Matter of Choice...Not Chance!"; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis shared a most praiseworthy message, challenging the students with moving and personal illustrations of how the quality of a person's decision determines both the quality and length of their life; and

WHEREAS, he also urged the young men to gain self respect saying, "If your pants are sagging, respect for you is dragging"; he further advised the young women to urge the men to "Pull your pants up young man! Pull your pants up!" and "Raise your standards by requiring young men to raise their pants"; and

WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville and a longtime resident of Nashville, Mr. Lewis is a highly respected member of the community; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, he graduated from Knoxville's Austin High School; he first moved to Nashville to attend Tennessee State University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, a stellar athlete, Dwight Lewis was a three year letterman on the university's baseball team and he served as the editor of the school's newspaper, *The Meter*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis began his meritorious career at *The Tennessean* on April 1, 1971, as a part-time campus correspondent; he became a full-time member of the staff when named as a general assignment reporter in June of 1971; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Lewis specialized in covering Tennessee's prison system during most of his reporting career; he served with probity as *The Tennessean's* Washington correspondent, covered state politics, and worked as the federal beat reporter for some time; and

WHEREAS, he has been honored with numerous awards and accolades for his outstanding reporting; in 1981, he, along with Linda Solomon, was honored with Lincoln University's first place Unity Award for economic reporting for their 10-part series about life in Nashville's public housing; and

WHEREAS, in the same year, Mr. Lewis received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for Journalists; and, in the spring of 1983, he received an honorable

mention in the judging for the Tennessee Associated Press' Malcolm Law Memorial Award for investigative reporting; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Mr. Lewis and fellow *Tennessean* staffer Susan Thomas published *A Will to Win*, an often amusing, sometimes touching story of the powerful athletic history of Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, he was named as one of the participants in the inaugural class of the Multicultural Management Program at the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1986; he also participated in a city editor's seminar sponsored by Gannett; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 and 1995, Dwight Lewis was named by officials at Columbia University in New York as one of 66 journalists nationwide to serve as a Pulitzer Prize juror; and

WHEREAS, he won first place honors in 1994, for commentary writing in the National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Awards and third place for commentary writing in 1996; and

WHEREAS, he was one of 12 black newspaper columnists from around the nation who met with President Bill Clinton at the White House to discuss the issue of race; and

WHEREAS, a remarkably gifted professional, he was awarded the 1995 Jerry Thompson Communicator Award by the Nashville Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; the award was created in appreciation for the influence that the media has in spotlighting those who build bridges of understanding, by presenting positive images of racial, ethnic and religious groups and by responsibly analyzing intergroup issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis received the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Philanthropist Award for Mass Media Outreach from the humanitarian organization, Take Time In Nashville; and

WHEREAS, he is also a contributor to the book, *Think Black, Some of the Nation's Most Thoughtful and Provocative Black Columnists Speak Their Minds*, and also portrayed a journalist in the movie "Marie," which was released in the fall of 1985; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work at *The Tennessean*, Mr. Lewis serves as a part-time lecturer at Fisk University in the school's Division of Fine Arts and Humanities, and has been an interim adviser to *The Meter* at TSU; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Lewis has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, he enjoys the love and support of his wife, and their son; and

WHEREAS, Dwight Lewis is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Dwight Lewis, dedicated journalist and consummate professional, and extend to him our best wishes in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.